

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the following amendments and remarks is respectfully requested. Claims 1-10 have been cancelled. Claims 11 to 19 are pending in this application.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 11 to 15 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by McClelland (WO 96/15919). Claim 11 of the present invention is directed to a transponder unit for use in a remote tire pressure monitoring system for a vehicle, which includes a plurality of remote pressure sensors connected to respective tires of the vehicle. The transponder unit comprises “a signal processor for processing signals from the pressure sensors and generating a coded signal for transmission which identifies the transponder unit and tire location”. The coded signal therefore includes information relating to the identity of the transponder unit itself, as well as the tire locations.

In contrast, McClelland discloses a remote tire pressure monitoring system in which tire pressure is sampled and transmitted by wheel units having pressure sensors. The information transmitted by the wheel units comprises wheel unit identity codes, pressure data, function bits which allow special messages such as “Low Battery” to be transmitted and error checking bits (page 8, lines 12 to 24). The information is transmitted directly to a dashboard receiver (page 2, lines 27 to 28).

McClelland neither discloses nor suggests a transponder unit capable of receiving individual pressure signals and generating a coded signal for transmission, from which the identity of the transponder unit and tire locations may be determined. It is therefore respectfully submitted that McClelland does not anticipate claim 11 of the present invention. Claims 12-15 and 19 depend on and incorporate independent claim 11, and are allowable for the same reason as discussed above with regard to claim 11, and are further allowable in view of the additional limitations set forth therein.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 16 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over McClelland in view of Robinson III (US 5838229). Claims 18 stands rejected under

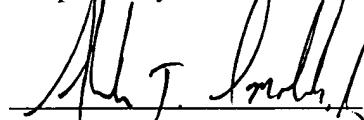
35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over McClelland in view of Rosenfield (US 5513524).

Claims 16-18 depend on and incorporate independent claim 11, and require a transponder unit. The transponder unit allows a cab unit within a vehicle cab to distinguish between signals from the remote pressure sensors of a vehicle trailer and other pressure sensors without the need for individual registration of each pressure sensor every time a vehicle trailer is changed. Instead, only registration of the transponder unit is required when a vehicle trailer is changed. None of the above-cited prior art documents disclose or suggest such an arrangement. Furthermore, a person of ordinary skill in the art would have no motivation to consider such an arrangement because transmitter/receiver applications typically do not have intermediate transponders. It is therefore respectfully submitted that claims 16-18 are not obvious in view of any combination of these references.

For the reasons set forth above, it is submitted that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the amended claims and a notice of allowance are therefore requested. It is believed that a one month extension of time is required for this matter which is enclosed herewith. If any additional fees are required for the timely consideration of this application, please charge deposit account number 19-4972. The Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned if any matters remain outstanding so that they may be resolved expeditiously.

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Respectfully submitted,


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